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THE *Pupilla Oculi*

In my article "The Speculum Vitae: Addendum," printed in the *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, June, 1917, reference was made (p. 152) to a fourteenth century compendium for the use of parish priests known as the *Pupilla Oculi* which seemed to possess some interest for literary history from the fact that it was ascribed to John de Burgh, the Chancellor of Cambridge in 1384, when we have some reason to believe that the University was concerning itself with popular religious literature; and also from the fact that, whatever its origin, it was placed in many parish churches for the use of curates, during the fifteenth century when the literature provided for the people was in general carefully supervised because of Lollardry.

At the time of writing the article in question, the only authority for Burgh's authorship of the *Pupilla* was the ascription found in the edition printed in 1510. It is the purpose of this note to quote the following heading which is affixed to an index found in the copy of the work in Cambridge University Ms. Ee. 5. 11 (f. 24 f.): "Hec tabula facta per fratrem Willelmum Sudbery monachum Westmon super pupillam oculi editam per magistrum Johannem Burght et magistrum Alanum Tylneye."

This heading is quoted from the article by Dr. J. A. Robinson, "An Unrecognized Westminster Chronicler" (*Proceedings of the British Academy*, 1910-8, p. 74, n. 3), in which he is treating the work of Sudbery. This person was a student of his abbey at Oxford, 1373-4, one of those who drew up the great Inventory of the Westminster vestry in 1388 (printed by Dr. Wickham Legg), etc., etc. It would appear that his opinion on the authorship of the *Pupilla Oculi* would be as good as any that could be found.

The authoritative character which the *Pupilla* apparently received makes it of special interest for contemporary literary history. It is a very common book in English libraries, but no copy in America has so far come to my attention. I should be grateful for information as to where it could be consulted in this country.

HOPE EMILY ALLEN.

Kenwood, Oneida, N. Y.

BRIEF MENTION

Wordsworth's Theory of Poetic Diction: A Study of the Historical and Personal Background of the Lyrical Ballads. By Marjorie Latta Barstow (Yale Studies in English LVII. Yale University Press, 1917). The critics of Wordsworth have, for the most part, given currency to the judgment that the poet had done better if he had not attempted to expound his theory of poetic diction, which, after all, is contradicted, it is declared, by his own